

News on Developmental Disabilities



Area Connection

January 2005



Area Board 6, 2529 W. March Lane, Ste. 105, Stockton, CA 95207 (209) 473-6930; ab6@sccd.ca.gov; www.areaboard6.ca.gov

Area Connection is a publication of the Area 6 Developmental Disabilities Board. Area boards are established under state law as a program of the **State Council on Developmental Disabilities**. They protect and advocate the rights of persons with developmental disabilities, and conduct local advocacy, capacity building and systemic change activities. Area Board 6 serves Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tuolumne Counties.

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Governor's Budget Strategy

Before presenting his Budget for 2005-06, the Governor gave his "State of the State" address on June 5, 2005. In that speech, he announced he would be calling a **special session of the Legislature** to present proposals for cuts in programs and services in order to keep spending in line with the State's revenue, as required by Proposition 58. As advocates for people with developmental disabilities examine the Governor's Proposed Budget for fiscal year 2005-06, we must remind ourselves to watch carefully what is proposed in the special session.

The Administration has stated repeatedly that the State has a problem of runaway expenditures caused by spending being tied to permanent formulas that drive expenditures. The solution is not, says the Administration, to raise more revenue through taxes, but to curb the

rate of growth in service costs.

There is a net increase over last year in funding for regional centers to purchase services for people with developmental disabilities who are their clients. That is good news, of course; however, the Budget proposes to suspend permanently the State cost of living increase for SSI/SSP and withhold the federal cost of living adjustment that would otherwise be given in January 2006. As well, the Budget proposes to cut the State's contribution to the wages for IHSS workers back to the State minimum wage level in October, 2005. Advocates are expecting that there will be additional proposals introduced later in the year, especially in 'trailer bills' that will be aimed at controlling costs in the regional center system.

For more information, attend the Area 6 Board

Meeting on February 1st in Modesto, or call the State Council for Robert Sifuentes at 916-322-8481.



Robert Phillips Heads to Area Board 4

After 18 years and countless miles to and from Marin County, Bob Phillips has taken the Executive Director position at Area Board 4 in Vallejo.

Bob will be missed by all who worked with him. Bob has integrity and values that guided him to become a true advocate for people with developmental disabilities!

We wish you all the best Bob!



The Advocate's Voice

The governor wants to take back several million dollars earmarked for California schools (in accordance with Proposition 98) and use it to cover other pressing State expenses. At the same time, he has targeted health and human services for major cuts in funds and programs. So what happens when two of the cost centers that serve the neediest—and most vulnerable—segments of California's population have to compete with each other for funding? One dangerous possibility that should **not** happen is that school advocates begin to work against human services advocates—and vice versa.

What should happen is that advocates and interested parties from both these backgrounds begin to educate the public on what their tax dollars are actually buying. Americans are generous people. Give us a great tragedy and we will pour out donations and mobilize relief efforts almost immediately. When the tsunami struck Southeast Asia, we got out our checkbooks and donated whatever we could to help the survivors of that terrible calamity. But have you noticed what the people running those relief efforts are saying about the timelines for recovery? These devastated areas will need more than immediate food and shelter for the survivors. They have to rebuild homes, hospitals, schools, police stations, roads, ports, businesses. That takes time, and a steady funding source. Relief workers are worried that sympathy for the plight of these victims will fade long before their recovery needs are met, so they caution people to donate in payments over a longer period of time. It's an uphill battle, because people tend to lose interest quickly when they don't see the results they are expecting right away.

The same process is at play with taxpayers. We know that our taxes pay for schools and roads and police and fire protection and social programs, but we see those things every day. They seem to be well-tended and functioning smoothly. So we are skeptical of claims that these services need more tax dollars than they are already getting—especially when certain pundits tell us that we are paying too much in taxes already. We can't see the immediate effects of a crowded classroom, a closed firehouse, or a discontinued public service in the bustle of our daily lives. We can, however, see prices going up on everything as we struggle to pay our bills, which may make us believe we are paying too many taxes.

What the people of California need is to know how well their tax dollars are being used. Programs and services that depend on state funding should be knocking on newsroom doors, demanding their share of press for the good works they are doing. Service recipients should be writing to their legislators and local news organizations to tell them how much they rely on services that are in jeopardy. The truth is that for several years now, large numbers of very dedicated people have been working a lot harder than their paychecks would indicate to provide quality services at minimum cost. As their funding has been cut (or remained the same) over the years, their cost of doing business has risen. Many are already stretched past their ability to provide the quality of service their customers deserve.

So let the people who pay taxes see what their money is buying. Let them know what they—and many others--will be missing if the services are cut. And let the legislators know what is really important in the lives of Californians, so they will know how the budgets should be written.

We Want You-On the Area 6 Board!

The Board wants interested persons to apply for membership on the Area Board. To apply, please call the Area 6 Board office for an application, or contact the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors if you live in one of the counties of Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, or Tuolumne.

If you wish to apply for an appointment by Governor Schwarzenegger to the Area 6 Board, please apply on-line through the Governor's web site. Type in, www.governor.ca.gov, then click on, "Appointments", then click on, "Serving in the Schwarzenegger Administration", then click on, "On-line application form" and follow the directions. If you have any questions about the duties of an area board member, or any difficulty completing the application, please call or e-mail us at (209) 473-6930 or ab6@scdd.ca.gov.

Good child care is hard to find...

...especially when your child has special needs. Fortunately, there are some helpful places to begin your search. In Amador and Calaveras Counties, the Children's Inclusive Care Council is working to address the child care requirements of parents whose children have special needs. They have a Resource Directory (available through HRC), and are currently developing a training and resource manual for parents and child care providers, which should be available in the next few months. For more information, contact Human Resource Council offices in Jackson or San Andreas, or go online to www.hrcccr.org. Their phone numbers are: Amador County – 223-1624, Calaveras County – 754-1075.

In San Joaquin County, the Family Resource and Referral Center (FRRC) is a good place to start. Located at 501 West Weber Avenue, Suite 101, in Stockton, the FRRC's goal is to assist caregivers, parents, and the community in finding all the information and tools necessary for the development of healthy children and families, including licensed child care providers in San Joaquin County, information on local provider trainings, and child development news. They can be reached through their website (www.frrcsj.org) or by phone at 800-436-9997.

Stanislaus County residents should contact Child Care Resource and Referral (558-4050). Administered through the Stanislaus Child Development and Local Planning Council, Resource and Referral provides comprehensive information and referrals for child care services and provider training. You might also want to check out the Family Resource Directory published by Stanislaus County Health Services Agency. It's available online at www.hsahealth.org/publichealth, or at the CHS office at 830 Scenic Drive, Building #3 in Modesto.

The Infant Child Enrichment Services provides similar services for Tuolumne and Mariposa counties. You can reach them online at www.icesagency.org, or call them at 533-0377.

All these organizations provide their services free of charge. They also provide access to screening tools that identify children with special needs, and offer a wealth of resource materials for parents and providers. If you happen to know of other child care resources or providers—especially for children with special needs, please call and add them to their lists.

PUBLIC MEETING OF THE AREA 6 DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES BOARD
6 pm, Tuesday, February 1, 2005
Conference Room #1 Doctor's Hospital 1441 Florida Avenue Modesto, CA
AGENDA

6:00 pm	INTRODUCTIONS	
6:05	APPROVAL of AGENDA and MINUTES of 11-30-04	
6:10	PUBLIC COMMENT	
6:15	PRESENTATION	- Overview of the Governor's Proposed Budget - Bob Phillips
6:35	ACTION	- Governor's Proposed Budget - Election of Chair and Vice-Chairpersons - Board's Search Process for New Executive Director. (See comment below) - New Respite Requirements
7:30	REPORTS	- Advocacy Report – Paul Symmonds - Executive Director's Report - Bob Phillips - Self-Advocacy Council VI – Brad Putz - State Council on Developmental Disabilities – Brad Putz
8:15 pm	ADJOURN	

Note: The Board's ad hoc committee, "Executive Director Search Committee", will meet at 3:30 pm on February 1, 2005, in the same location, to develop a recommendation for the Board's Executive Director search process.

Pursuant to Government Code Sections 11123.1 and 11125 (f), individuals with disabilities who require accessible alternative formats of the agenda and related meeting materials and/or auxiliary aids/services to participate in the meeting, should contact Bob Phillips at the Area Board office at 209-473-6930 or e-mail, ab6@scdd.ca.gov.



Special Education Rights Workshops

There is **no cost** to attend the following workshops but reservations are **required**. Please phone, or e-mail your reservation to the Area 6 Board Office: 209-473-6930 or ab6@scdd.ca.gov

Thursday, February 3, 2005
6 - 8 pm
Manteca Public Library
320 W. Center Street
Manteca, CA

Thursday, March 17, 2005
6 - 8 pm
Lodi Public Library
201 W. Locust Street
Lodi, CA

Thursday, May 5, 2005
6 to 8 pm
San Andreas Library
891 Mt. Ranch Road
San Andreas

Choices Conference: Respect Yourself

Keynote speaker: Dave Hingsburger
April 22, 2005 8 am—4 pm San Joaquin County Office of Education
Call the CHOICES Institute at (209) 948-8011 for registration info.

Autism Forum

April 15 and 16th. Call Shirely Love at SJCOE at (209) 468-4907

Legislative Forum

May 6th, Petaluma Convention Center, Petaluma, CA.
Call Deanna Dupont at (707) 648-4073 for info.

Reauthorization of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Training:

April 21 & 22, 8:30 am—4 pm
Sacramento Convention Center
1400 J St, Exhibit Hall A
No fee or advance registration.
For info, see www.cde.ca.gov

More local event information is available online at www.areaboard6.ca.gov



State of California

State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Area 6 Board
2529 W. March Lane, Ste. 105
Stockton, CA 95207

Address Return Requested

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